

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/931,251	OKAMOTO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Marc R Filipczyk	2161	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/17/01 and 9/7/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>3/8/05</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                       |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-10 and 21 in the reply filed on September 7, 2004 is acknowledged. Claims 1-10 and 21 are pending.

### ***Priority***

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Brundidge on March 8, 2005.

### **AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS**

#### **Claim 4. (Currently Amended)**

The database integration management method according to Claim 1, wherein the material-object information stored in said material-object information database is producer information obtained during the a production of the material object, forwarding agent information obtained during the a transportation of the material object, selling agent information

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obtained during the a sale of the material object, or consumer information obtained during the a purchase of the material object.

**Claim 7. (Currently Amended)**

The database integration management method according to claim 1, wherein, when the a transmission of integrated material-object information associated with a given material-object identification code is requested, the material-object identification code and material-object information associated with the material-object identification code are sent to the database integration management apparatus.

**Claim 11. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 12. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 13. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 14. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 15. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 16. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 17. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 18. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 19. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 20. (Cancelled)**

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-10 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record, renumbered as claims 1-11, respectively.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 10 and 21 are allowable because the prior art of record or that encountered in searching for the invention, fails to disclose or suggest a database integration management for integrating items of material-object information having the same material-object identification code with each other among a material-object information database in each business category to generate integrated material-object information, associating the material-object identification code with the integrated material-object information identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the integrated material-object information in an integrated database, as claimed in addition to the other claim provisions.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and are therefore allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to illustrate the state of art with respect to database integration systems:

U.S. Patent No. 6,714,947 of Fa

U.S. Patent No. 6,591,300 of Yurkovic

U.S. Patent No. 6,418,441 of Call

U.S. Patent No. 6,249,768 of Tulske, Jr. et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF  
March 9, 2005

*Frantz Coby*  
**FRANTZ COBY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**